

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests further examination and reconsideration in view of the comments set forth fully below. Claims 1-32 were previously pending in this application. Claims 1-3, 5-23, 25 and 26 have been rejected, Claims 4 and 24 have been objected to, and Claims 27-32 have been allowed. By the above amendment, Claims 1, 5, 6, 8, 16 and 26 have been amended and Claims 2-4, 17 and 24 have been canceled. Claims 1, 5-16, 18-23 and 25-32 are now pending in this application.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and 35 U.S.C. § 103

Within the Office Action, Claims 1, 2, 12, 15, 16, 17 and 25 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,584,502 to Natarajan (hereinafter "Natarajan"). Within the Office Action, Claims 3, 5-11, 13, 14, 18-23 and 26 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Natarajan in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,513,064 to Horinguchi (hereinafter "Horinguchi").

It is stated within the Office Action that Claims 4 and 24 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. By the above amendment, the limitations of Claim 4 and the intervening Claims 2 and 3, have been added into the independent Claim 1. Accordingly, the independent Claim 1 is allowable. Claims 2-4 have been canceled. By the above amendment, the limitations of Claim 24 and the intervening Claim 17, have been added into the independent Claim 16. Accordingly, the independent Claim 16 is allowable. Claims 17 and 24 have been canceled.

Claims 5-15 are all dependent on the independent Claim 1. As described above, the independent Claim 1 is allowable. Accordingly, Claims 5-15 are all also allowable as being dependent on an allowable base claim.

Claims 18-23, 25 and 26 are all dependent on the independent Claim 16. As described above, the independent Claim 16 is allowable. Accordingly, Claims 18-23, 25 and 26 are all also allowable as being dependent on an allowable base claim.

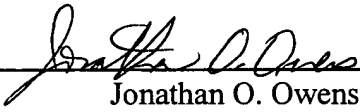
Within the Office Action, it is stated that Claims 27-32 are allowed.

For the reasons given above, the Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are now in a condition for allowance, and allowance at an early date would be appreciated. Should the Examiner have any questions or comments, he is encouraged to call the undersigned at (408) 530-9700 to discuss the same so that any outstanding issues can be expeditiously resolved.

Respectfully submitted,

HAVERSTOCK & OWENS LLP

Dated: May 10, 2004

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 CFR § 1.8(a))

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

HAVERSTOCK & OWENS LLP
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